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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,424	04/15/2004	Douglas Willard	13952-2	6505

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EXAMINER

PARSLEY, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HL

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/824,424	Applicant(s) WILLARD, DOUGLAS	
	Examiner David J. Parsley	Art Unit 3643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Detailed Action

Amendment

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment dated 8-10-05 and this action is final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 10-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,460,306 to Rudd in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,524 to Lai.

Referring to claim 1, Rudd discloses a fishing rod support comprising, a restriction member – at 11, being a substantially vertical elongated member – see for example figures 1-5, having a vertical longitudinal axis and a vertical opening – at 15, 17 and proximate 15, from one end of the member and extending substantially along the vertical axis – see for example figures 1-5, which vertical opening is configured to receive a portion of a fishing rod – see for example the reel and items 30 and R in figure 1, so that a longitudinal axis of the fishing rod – at the shaft

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portion at 30 as seen in figure 2, is substantially perpendicular to the vertical axis – see for example figures 1-6, and the vertical opening substantially limits rotational movement of the fishing rod about the vertical axis – see for example figures 1-5, a retaining member – at 12, coaxial to and operatively coupled to the restriction member – see for example figures 1-5, so that the retaining member slides along the vertical axis of the restriction member – see for example figures 1-5, and having a wall section which defines a horizontal opening – see at 16, 18, along the side of the retaining member – see for example figures 1-5, wherein the retaining member is relatively movable between a substantially closed position in which the restriction member blocks the horizontal opening and prevents access to the vertical opening through the horizontal opening – see for example figure 5, and an open position in which the restriction member does not block the horizontal opening so that access to the vertical opening through the horizontal opening is available – see for example figure 4, and wherein the retaining member is normally biased to the closed position and movement of the rod portion moves the retaining member from the closed position to the open position whereby substantially uninhibited removal of the fishing rod from the vertical opening through the horizontal opening and thus from the fishing rod support is possible – see for example figures 1-5. Rudd does not disclose upward vertical movement of the rod portion moves the retaining member from the closed position to the open position. Lai does disclose upward vertical movement of the rod portion – at 4, moves the retaining member – at 3, from the closed position – see figure 3 to the open position – see figure 5. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Rudd and add the upward movement of the rod to cause the retaining member to move to the

open position of Lai, so as to allow for the rod to be easily removable and insertable into the support device.

Referring to claim 2, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the restriction member comprises at least one substantially vertically aligned rod guide – see for example at 15 and the interior of 11 in figures 1-5 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 4, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the retaining member is substantially tubular – see for example at 12 in figures 1-5 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 5, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the restriction member is substantially tubular – see for example at 11 in figures 1-5 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 7, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses a body portion – at 21, operatively coupled to the restriction member – at 11 – see for example figures 1-5 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 10, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the support further comprises a mount – at F as seen in figure 1 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 11, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses a pocket – see inside item 11 in figures 1-5 of Rudd, for receiving a fishing rod handle – see figures 5-7 of Rudd, wherein the pocket is substantially aligned with a pocket axis and wherein the pocket axis forms an angle of deflection with the vertical – see for example figures 1-5 of Rudd, wherein the body of the support further comprises a neck portion – see at 11, 12 in figures 1-5 of Rudd, and wherein the neck portion forms an angle which is substantially supplementary to the angle of deflection – see for example figures 1-5 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 12, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the mount – at F, is configured to engage the pocket – see for example figure 1 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 14, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the substantially vertically aligned rod guide is a substantially vertical slot – see for example at 15 in figures 1-5 of Rudd.

Referring to claim 15, Rudd as modified by Lai does not disclose the vertical opening is a V-shaped slot extending from one end of the restriction member. However, changing a shape over that of the prior art does not overcome the prior art in that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Rudd as modified by Lai and add the opening being v-shaped, so as to allow for the fishing rod to be securely held into the device and to allow easy insertion and removal of the fishing rod from the device.

Referring to claim 16, Rudd as modified by Lai further discloses the horizontal opening – proximate 3 of Lai, is defined so as to have an upwardly angled upper surface – see for example figures 2-5 of Lai, so that the rod portion – at 4, slides upwards and outwards when exiting the restriction member – at 2 – see for example figures 2-5 of Lai.

Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudd as modified by Lai as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,656,774 to Terrill.

Referring to claim 8, Rudd as modified by Lai does not disclose a ground engager configured to releasably secure the support to the ground. Terrill does disclose a ground engager – at 14,16, configured to releasably secure the support to the ground – see for example figure 1. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Rudd as modified by Lai and add the ground engager of Terrill, so as to allow for the device to

be securely held to the ground while allowing for the device to be easily removed from the ground.

Referring to claim 9, Rudd as modified by Lai and Terrill further discloses the ground engager is an auger bit – at 14,16 – see for example figure 1 of Terrill.

Response to Arguments

3. Regarding claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-12 and 14-16, applicant discusses the advantages in the design of the present invention over that of the Rudd reference US 5460306 but does not offer what limitations of the claims that the Rudd reference is lacking. Therefore, as seen above in paragraph 2 of this office action it is deemed that the Rudd reference as modified by the Lai reference US 6089524 discloses the claimed invention. The Rudd reference discloses the newly added limitations of a longitudinal axis of the fishing rod being substantially perpendicular to the vertical axis of the restriction member in that the rod is considered as items 30, R and the reel as seen in figures 1-2 where as seen in figure 2 the rectangular shaft – at 30, has its longitudinal axis being perpendicular to the vertical axis of the restriction member – at 11. Further, applicant argues that the Lai reference does not disclose upward vertical movement of the rod portions moves the retaining member in that the portion – at 3 is pushed downward to allow for the rod – at 4 to move. However, as seen in figures 3 and 5, the rod – at 4 is moved vertically upward from the position of figure 3 to the position of figure 5 and the downward force on item 3 which causes the motion of the rod – at 4 is irrelevant in that the forces acting on the rod and restriction members are not claimed and therefore have no bearing on the patentability of the claims.

– *Conclusion*

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Parsley whose telephone number is (571) 272-6890. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8am to 4pm.

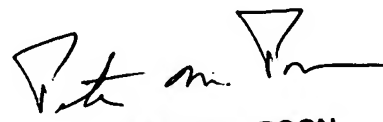
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DP

David Parsley
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643


PETER M. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

10/6/05